

Norwich Bulletin and Courier

114 YEARS OLD.

Subscription price, 12c a week; \$6 a month; \$60 a year.

Entered at the Postoffice at Norwich, Conn., as second-class matter.

Bulletin-Business Office, 410, Bulletin Editorial Office, 25-2, Bulletin Job Office, 35-2, Bulletin Advertising Office, Room 2, Murray Building, Telephone, 210.

Norwich, Thursday, Jan. 27, 1910.

SKILL NOT SO COMMON.

That the skilled workman is a rarer bird than most people think is satisfactorily shown by a writer upon rural service in the current number of *Nature's Weekly*. The man of ability is the man who must be had, and to show the difficulty of obtaining first-class men this writer says:

"Among every one hundred men who become firemen, only 17 are ever made engineers. Out of every one hundred engineers only six ever get passenger runs. The next time you see a white-haired man on the cab of a big passenger locomotive, don't make up your mind that he has the goods or he wouldn't be there. It is a case of the selection and the survival of the fittest. It takes more to run the fast trains these days, and if any one of a dozen people, down to the man who spiked the rails, has made a mistake, you ride to certain death."

A UNIVERSAL CITY CHARTER.

It is not so long ago that Connecticut had a commission appointed to inquire into the feasibility of having a city charter so framed that it could fit any city in the state, creating a uniform code, of which the state might be proud. The commission failed from view, and the uniform code never materialized. It was too much. No way could be devised to make a square code fit a triangular city.

New Jersey is on the verge of wrestling with this same problem for a second time. The Newark News says:

"Mayor Fisk of Plainfield, in a recent address before the Merchants' association of that city, cited the fact that in the 1895 revision of laws there were 144 pages devoted to municipal laws. Since then over 700 separate laws have been passed, so that there are now over 1,500 laws, partly or wholly in force, covering cities alone. He argued, therefore, that the comprehensive municipal code for the government of cities should be enacted by the legislature to take the place of the existing mass of statutes, reducing to the principle of home rule and giving to cities the right, within certain defined limits, to regulate their own internal affairs."

New Jersey's commission fourteen years ago and it made two reports which were not accepted, and it forgot to make the third. They are still looking for a practical way out of the delirium caused by that and many other states regard as a dilemma.

THE RIGHT TALK.

A Boston man, who started in life as a farmer's boy, does not think that New England papers should write down the farms, but should write them up—become farmers' boys and depressors; and The Bulletin agrees with him when he says:

"The press should stop croaking about abandoned farms, about the hard lot of the farmer, and about New England soil. It is good enough to yield ten times what it does. Our climate is a better one than any other section has got, all the year 'round. New England boys are not deserting the farms to a greater extent than boys are everywhere moving about. We are inclined to think that the most valuable in the country, and we are going to prove it to the world."

Concerning himself, he says: "I was 'raised on a little New England farm where my father and his family have missed starvation for nearly half a century. Had he been able to farm as now possible he would have died possessed of stocks and bonds. The farm might now be made to produce a net annual revenue of \$1,000 to \$2,500; net, above the support of the family and all proper charges. Such things are done, and by many farmers, right here in New England. I know of two brothers who took a farm poorer than the one I have just mentioned, and in twenty years have made an annual average of \$2,500 net. The same sort of success is possible for anybody who knows the business of farming, and is willing to work with his head as well as with his hands and back."

"The owner of the most remote farm, of the smallest, poorest patch in New England, can get a reliable prescription for his land if he wishes it. Not long ago I was chatting with a professional man, the father of a son who was to go to the land. I asked him why some one in New England did not attempt to grow chestnuts. He at once named a man who had a chestnut grove that is producing sixty bushels per acre, and the nuts selling for \$6 a bushel."

Agriculturally New England is waking up to its importance, and by and by this age will be looked back upon as the era of cheap land in this region. With modern knowledge and improved farming tools New England is coming up to a state of development which will preclude the possibility of a recurrence of present agricultural conditions and low prices.

The orders of Champ Clark to the Democratic party to get together are not likely to be obeyed, for Colonel Bryan has jumped up in the midst of the campaign, and the organization does not feel as if it could stand it a fourth time.

It may be that Russia and Japan will indulge in another war within two years, but neither nation can afford such an indulgence of folly and spite.

Lent begins so early this year that some of the best boycotters may easily extend their fast for forty days more, from principle, instead of price.

THE MATTER OF DIET.

If the Japanese forces had been overcome by the Russians in the recent war, the old idea of the greater valor and skill of the meat-eaters would have survived, but the emphasis of the little Japs, who neither eat meat nor drink whiskey and their achievements have made it plain that the diet does not count for physical or mental superiority just as the old world has always thought it did. Benjamin J. Karr, after carefully examining the merits of the meat-eating nations and the vegetable-eating peoples, has been forced to the following conclusions:

"The differences in diet are not paralleled by variations in the characteristics of nations and in their capacity for great trials and achievements. Consider how the Japanese fight and march, endure and die, when called on in the name of their country, with very little meat to eat. Think of the records Turkish troops have made on the march, and the endurance of the wheat bread. On the other hand, give due weight to the equally undeniable hardihood and strength of body and mind which the meat-eating nations have often shown. Remember the endurance, the courage and the great strength and agility of the plains Indians, who lived on the buffalo and other wild game."

"Do not forget the physical powers and the stamina of fisherfolk, in many parts of the world, who live largely on the food they find in the sea. Where are men stouter of heart and more formidable in battle than on the coast of Norway, or the Greek islands, or where the Arabs live in great part on the food they find in the Persian gulf and the Arabian sea? When can the world forget the far-reaching conquests of the Mongol shepherds and herders who followed Genghis Khan, and their kinsfolk who carried terror wherever the banner of Timour went? Yet they could excel the deer and the almost vegetarian Japanese and the Turks of the latter-day Ottoman armies."

"The surest fact connected with the question of human diet is that man is exceedingly adaptable and that he can thrive on many kinds of food, one after another or all together. He is apt to eat too much if circumstances fix no other limit than his desires and his prudence, but he easily exaggerates the importance of selection between broad systems of diet, provided that his food is clean and well prepared—and even that condition is ignored, in millions of cases in many lands, without breaking down his reserve of health and strength which is the birthright of the sound and natural human body."

OPINIONS.

It will be remembered that Chief Moore of the weather bureau and Horace Johnson, the boss of Connecticut weather, had a difference of opinion about inauguration day prospects at Washington, and Horace was the nation's plaudits as a forecaster over the first weather man in the land. Now Chief Moore swears to deny the theories of Gifford Pinchot upon the value of the forests as contributors of water to the streams. He says there is no warrant for believing that forests have any appreciable influence upon the rainfall. What Forester Pinchot says is this:

"Whatever doubt there may be about the action of the forest in producing rain, there is none about its effect on rain water after it has fallen. When rain falls over a dense forest from less than one inch to about one-fourth of an inch, it is caught by trees. A small part of this water may reach the ground by running down the trunks, but the greater part of it is evaporated and so increases the humidity of the air. That which passes through the crowns falls upon the forest floor, which sometimes has an absorbing power so great that it can hold or a rainfall of five inches. Yet this water does not remain in the porous floor, but in the dense mat of moss and the ground is saturated. That which gets to the ground is either taken up by the roots or goes to feed the springs and streams. Rain which falls on a bare slope acts differently. It is not caught by the crowns nor held by the floor, nor is its flow into the streams hindered by the timber and the fallen waste from the trees. It does not sink into the ground more than half as readily as in the forest, as experiments have shown."

Those who live along the banks of the western rivers think Mr. Pinchot's facts are too apparent to be characterized as theories by Chief Moore. Here is another smile for Uncle Horace of Haddam. He's had 'em before!

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Both Russia and Japan report took cold to Secretary Knox since they have both met his visions with a frost.

The bee barons are not disturbed by the anti-meat-eating spasms. What to do to them is to totally abstain.

Happy thought for today: A fool is the fellow who hooks up to the other fellow's pet brand of folly.

A Vermont farmer with whom child-raising is a side-issue has just looked upon the face of his twentieth heir.

The man who can smile when the alarm clock calls him would make a good nurse for a baby with the croup.

The owner of a prize opinelion hen who offers \$25 for the return of a stolen egg, is a top-notch for prices.

January has shown us that it has many faces, and that some of them are as nice as an artist's model.

The fact that Harry Thaw has become a bankrupt will not rob him of legal aid and counsel. He has prospects.

Dr. Wiley thinks that to abandon meat would make mollycoddles of us all. Let him show up a few as evidence.

Two Chicago bank wreckers have been paroled, but the safe wreckers are still held as vicious and untrustworthy villains.

Legislatures are not so different in Massachusetts they expect that the legislature may do something pretty soon.

If the cows of New England are going to decrease at the rate of 14,000 a year, condensed milk will be too dear to buy later on.

Speaker Cannon does not appear to desire that his cigar shall be left out when his picture is taken. His spirit is expressed by the tilt.

Springfield, Mass., will allow no fire-cracker sold in that city that measures over three inches in length and one-half inch in diameter.

Woman in Life and in the Kitchen

CONCERNING WOMEN.

The suffragists are rejoicing over Mark Twain and Senator Carter of Montana as the latest recruits to their cause.

Consuelo, Dowager Duchess of Manchester, who died recently, in her will, just made public, bequeathed a magnificent ruby and diamond bracelet to a token of respectful affection to Queen Alexandra. The duchess was one of the first American girls to marry a duke.

Miss Alice Fischer traveled all the way from New York to Chynoweth, Wis., to cast her vote in the last elections. The trip cost in the neighborhood of \$200.

The city council of Easton, Md., voted by a large majority to ask the legislature to amend the city charter so as to give the municipal suffrage to women owning \$500 worth of property.

Miss Ethel Wood has been appointed instructor in the art of story telling by the Massachusetts state board of education. Miss Wood won a reputation as an original story teller while teaching in Brooklyn.

NEEDLEWORK SUGGESTIONS.

Transfer Pattern No. 311—A conventional flower design for a pillow, to be transferred to linen, denim, ticking or any pillow material, and embroidered in the brand flat stitch and seed stitch. The leaves are all outlined and filled with the seed stitch and the flowers are solid.

Order through The Bulletin Company, Pattern Dept., Norwich, Conn.

Transfer Pattern No. 312—Transfer pattern of three yards of two-inch wide fabric, for a skirt, to be transferred to linen, lawn, muslin, long cloth or cambric.

Price of pattern, 10 cents. Order through The Bulletin Company, Pattern Dept., Norwich, Conn.

TIMETABLE FOR COOKS.

The following valuable table of time for the boiling of vegetables will be of use to many cooks:

Asparagus, 15 to 20 minutes.
Beans (shell), one to two hours.
Beans (string), two hours.
Young beans, 45 to 60 minutes.
Cauliflower, 20 to 45 minutes.
Carrots, 40 minutes.
Cauliflower, 20 to 45 minutes.
Onions, 20 to 45 minutes.
Peas, 15 to 20 minutes.
Potatoes, 20 to 30 minutes.
Spinach, 20 to 30 minutes.
Tomatoes, 15 to 20 minutes.
Turnips, two to three hours.

PRESSING TROUSERS.

To press trousers, place them flat on an ironing board, front up. Dampen the knee portion thoroughly. Lay flat on the board; cover with cloth and press dry.

Now fold in crease, dampen and press in the same way. The bulging appearance about the knees will have entirely disappeared and the trousers will be as crisp as the original shape.

Trousers pressed in this manner will hold their shape as long as those pressed in the usual way.

Baked Macaroni and Cheese.

Boil the macaroni in salted water, then drain and put a layer of it in the bottom of a greased pudding dish. Put this with a half cup of melted butter and pepper and cover with a layer of grated cheese. Proceed in this way until the dish is full, ending with a layer of dots of butter and grated cheese. Four hot milk into the dish until it fills, cover and bake for half hour, then uncover and brown.

Plain Cup Cake.

Create a cup of butter with two cups of sugar, add a teaspoonful of milk, the well beaten yolks of four eggs, then fold in three cups of flour (that has been sifted with two even teaspoonfuls of baking powder), alternately with the stiffened whites of the eggs. Flavor with vanilla or other extract, and bake in a loaf or in layer tins.

Points on Fashions and Fads.

Blouses of chiffon to match the suits are the vogue again. Striped flannel, linen and madras are used for morning shirt waists.

Suede shoes in gray, brown and blues, as well as blacks, are seen.

Round collars are increasing in size, and old fads to develop into pupes.

Three yards is the regulation length of the chiffon or net evening scarf.

Paris milliners are now experimenting with medium sized picture-hat hats.

The frock of chintilly lace is an old-time favorite that is again to the fore.

Great Vogue for Old Jewel Effects.

For some seasons the vogue for barbaric and fantastic jewelry has grown to such an extent that today a conventional ornament looks unique.

The rich, beautiful blue of lapis lazuli has the happy faculty of accentuating the whiteness of the hands or neck, and the semi-precious favorite is combined with white gems, either pearls or diamonds, set in huge designs of bars and suspenders, when the ornament is a necklace, by innumerable chains formed of tiny hand-made links.

Sometimes silver, the links is carved or chased, so ornate have these oriental effects become.

Golden tops, delicate hued aquamarines and the various tinted tourmalines are thrown together, heater-skitter, with no thought of color clashes or harmonizations.

Long chains of alternate malachite and Etruscan gold flat beads are worn and these necklaces are caught about half way down their length with an enormous ornament of the metal set with the malachite, from which depend two or three gold tassels.

The ends of the chain terminate in similar ornaments.

Turquoise scarabs are introduced into the jewelry, and pink tourmalines combined with abalone pearl and set in gold or filigree silver, olivines of yellowish green and pink tourmalines alternate in fringe like dangling stomachers.

HOME GARMENT MAKING.

The Bulletin's Pattern Service.

Hints of Value to Housewives.

The alcohol helps to keep windows clean in winter, and also keeps them free from frost, at least for a short time.

Wool alcohol may be used, but one should wear rubber or heavy kid gloves while applying it, for hands quickly absorb the poisonous liquid.

To prevent the hands from being calloused while doing housework, wrap soft cloths around the handles of the broom, mop, carpet sweeper and iron handles.

Moths will not come where clothes have been sprinkled with turpentine; they dislike the odor.

Wear Gloves to Have Pretty Hands.

The secret of beautiful nails and shapely hands is to wear gloves whenever possible and to manicure frequently.

By wearing gloves, which should be tight, since tight gloves have a tendency to distort the hands and to impede the circulation, the need for manicure is reduced to a minimum.

This practice has the further advantage of preserving and protecting the color and texture of the skin, and should certainly be followed when playing outdoor games, especially in winter time, or doing anything likely to soil or roughen the skin.

Wide Choice in Hats for Spring.

There is little excuse in an unbecoming spring hat, as there is a wide choice in hats for the coming season.

The wise and up-to-date woman always anticipates the latest in style, last of all at novelty.

The Audubon society will now get busy with their plans for a season when egrets and paradise plumes will be rampant as never before.

The all-black dress, the latter, are in and women are now collecting their old feathers and having them remade into new and better looking plumes.

Flowers when used are of monstrous size and exquisite soft colorings.

The dark suit that will be worn this spring will be removed from somberness by colored hats. Where one does not wish to wear a marked hat, as one of purple, dull pink or odd tones of raspberry and copper, these colorings may be used as drapery in tulle on the black mill hat.

Only Formal Gown Has Trailing Skirt.

Most of this winter's afternoon dresses are of the long, flowing skirt, for which one is really very grateful, for the little shoes are so attractive pretty with their fixings of patent leather and their embroideries and beading.

At an important opening of elaborate afternoon costumes every gown was displayed with accompanying pair of boots, some of colored suede, some of bronze and buckskin, with all manner of dainty furnishings.

The formal reception costume, however, is not short enough to reveal the feet, and the cloth we all around several inches on the floor.

Such gowns are worn now only when the journey through the streets is to be made in carriage or limousine, and few women are seen holding up long skirts.

Old Sash Will Make Chic Theater Waist.

Smart looking waists for the theater are old-fashioned brocade, velvet with black net, both plain and spotted.

Flowered ribbon sashes might be pressed into service again as a foundation for one of these charming waists and some of the designs might be picked in gold thread with good results.

Ribbon Facing on Hats.

Ribbons is used for facing the brims of the new hats. It is possible to obtain almost any shade.

Of course, the great advantage to the ribbon is that it does away with the necessity of hemming or otherwise finishing the edges.

The New Capes.

Some of the prettiest of the new capes for evening wear are cut circular and with a fitted yoke. The yoke is as elaborately trimmed as one's wishes and purse permit.

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HOME GARMENT MAKING.

The Bulletin's Pattern Service.

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